

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 276313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, VN, VS, CB, LA

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION ON INDOCHINA COUNTRIES

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING GUIDANCE TO U.S. DELEGATION
TO 25TH MEETING OF COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE,
TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 5.

2. VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP

THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) WAS A MEMBER OF THE
COLOMBO PLAN. THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON (PRG) HAVE
CLAIMED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SEAT IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND HAVE SENT DELEGATION TO ATTEND SESSIONS OF
SEVERAL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (WHO, WMO). IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT A PRG OR DRV DELEGATION MAY REQUEST TO BE SEATED AT
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THE COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE.

SHOULD THE PRG CLAIM MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLOMBO PLAN, AND ATTEND THE CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEITHER OPPOSE NOR SUPPORT THE PRG'S CLAIM. THE UNITED STATES WOULD DISCOURAGE ANY EXTENSION OF A SPECIAL INVITATION BY THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PRG TO ATTEND THE SESSION OR ASSUME MEMBERSHIP AND WOULD PREFER THAT ANY QUESTION OF PRG MEMBERSHIP BE TREATED AS ROUTINELY AS

POSSIBLE. SHOULD THE QUESTION OF PRG MEMBERSHIP BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE IN A PLENARY SESSION OR ANY OTHER BODY, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AND NOT SPEAK TO THE QUESTION OF PRG MEMBERSHIP. SHOULD A NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION SEEK MEMBERSHIP, THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME GUIDELINES AS FOR THE PRG.

3. CAMBODIAN MEMBERSHIP

ALTHOUGH CAMBODIA HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBO PLAN, ITS POLICY, AS STATED TO THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER 1975 BY THE KHMER ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION NOMINAL CHIEF OF STATE, NORODOM SIHANOUK, WAS THAT, "KAMPUCHEA... HAS NOT JOINED AND WILL NOT JOIN ANY ORGANIZATION OR GROUP OF STATES OR NATIONS -- WITH THE EXCEPTION, OF COURSE, OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP." CAMBODIA'S ACTIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN CONSISTENT WITH THIS STATEMENT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE NEW CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE NO MOVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF GROUPS OTHER THAN THE UN AND THE NON-ALIGNED. U.S. SHOULD RESPOND TO A CAMBODIAN REQUEST FOR SEATING IN THE SAME MANNER AS TO A VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP, (SEE ABOVE).

4. CONTACTS WITH VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN DELEGATIONS

IF A VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN DELEGATION ATTENDS THE CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD AVOID SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN DELEGATIONS BUT BE CORRECT WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY CANNOT BE AVOIDED. MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD NEITHER EXTEND INVITATIONS TO NOR ACCEPT INVITATIONS FROM THE VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN DELEGATIONS, NOR SHOULD THEY ATTEND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES SPECIFICALLY IN HONOR OF THESE DELEGATIONS. WHEN ENCOUNTERING VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN DELEGATES AT OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND OBSERVING NORMAL

COURTESIES. ANY SUBSTANTIVE APPROACHES BY MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION SHOULD BE REPORTED BY CABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

CURRENT LEGISLATION PROHIBITS THE UNITED STATES FROM GIVING ANY ASSISTANCE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH VIETNAM. IT IS ALSO THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH

PROVIDED THE ARMS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER OF SOUTH VIETNAM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM. THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEITHER SUPPORT NOR PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ANY PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM.

SHOULD THE VIETNAMESE EXHIBIT AN INTEREST IN A SPECIFIC ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD NOT OPPOSE VIETNAMESE PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROGRAMS, BUT SHOULD NOTE THAT UNDER CURRENT LEGISLATION U.S. FUNDS CANNOT BE USED IN SUPPORT OF ANY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN VIETNAM AND THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE MUST BE FUNDED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS GENERAL RULE WOULD BE THE DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM FUNDING FOR WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO SECTION 109 RESTRICTION.

6. LAO PARTICIPATION IN THE COLOMBO PLAN'S 25TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) IS A RECIPIENT MEMBER OF THE PLAN AND HAS PARTICIPATED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME YEARS IN IT. THIS YEAR, WITH THE ASCENDANCY OF THE PATHET LAO TO A POSITION OF OVERWHELMING DOMINANCE IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND THE PGNU HAVE SOURED CONSIDERABLY. FOLLOWING THE IMPOSITION OF A CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, CAMBODIA OR LAOS EARLIER THIS SUMMER, WE HAVE TERMINATED ALL AID TO LAOS. THIS HAS OCCASIONED MUCH BITTERNESS ON THE PART OF THE LAO. THEY HAVE ESPECIALLY TAKEN EXCEPTION TO OUR WITHDRAWAL, IN AUGUST, OF OUR EARLIER PLEDGE OF A DOLS. 5 MILLION LOAN FOR THE NAM NGUM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION THAT THE PGNU WILL NOT CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN. AT THE 25TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING, THE LAO DELEGATION MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS

FORUM TO RAISE THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF U.S. AID
OR OTHER LESS SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS. THESE SHOULD BE TAKEN
IN STRIDE AND NO MORE ATTENTION CALLED TO THEM THAN
NECESSARY- IN NO EVENT SHOULD THE ISSUE OF AID BE
RAISED WITH THE LAO. CONTACTS WITH THE LAO DELEGATION
IN THE ROUTINE COURSE OF COMMITTEE MEETING BUSINESS
SHOULD FOLLOW NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, SINCE WE STILL
MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH THE PGNU AND AN EMBASSY IN
VIENTIANE. KISSINGER

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